

Message Text

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1RAFTED BY NEA/ARP:COCECIL:ACR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 169848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, EAID, SA

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SECURITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

REF: STATE 131687

1. MR. THOMAS C. PARROTT, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM IBRAHIM AL-ZAID, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SAUDI SOCIAL INSURANCE ORGANIZATION. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PARROTT: AS YOU KNOW, WE ASKED COMMISSIONER CARDWELL IN OUR LETTER DATED 24/11/75 FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL INSURANCE IN SAUDI ARABIA BY LENDING THE SERVICES OF TWO EXPERIENCED QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR A ONE YEAR ASSIGNMENT.

AS A RESULT OF THIS REQUEST AND DUE TO SSA'S GREAT ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION, A THREE MAN TEAM ARRIVED IN RIYADH ON NOVEMBER 8, 1975. THE COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM WAS:

(A) MR. SIDNEY NIBALI TO STAY IN RIYADH FOR SIX MONTHS;
(B) MR. FREDERICK BOWERS--ONE YEAR; (C) MR. DONALD E. ROBERTS FOR ONE YEAR. THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT FOR
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THE MENTIONED PERIODS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$158,000.

UNFORTUNATELY AND DUE TO PERSONAL PROBLEMS, MR. FREDERICK BOWERS LEFT RIYADH ON NOVEMBER 18, 1975, TEN DAYS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN RIYADH. MR. SIDNEY NIBALI LEFT ON ABOUT DECEMBER 10, 1975, IN ORDER TO TAKE CHRISTMAS LEAVE AND ALSO TO INTERVIEW TWO ADDITIONAL PEOPLE. HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COME BACK AS PLANNED BECAUSE OF RECURRING PROBLEMS WITH HIS BACK AND LEGS. AS A RESULT OF THIS, ONLY MR. DONALD ROBERTS STAYED WITH US SO HE WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE WERE HOPING FOR IN SPITE OF HIS HARD WORK BECAUSE THE PROJECT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HANDLED BY THE THREE OF THEM RATHER THAN BY MR. ROBERTS ALONE.

DURING MR. NIBALI'S ABSENCE, HE AND MR. ARTHUR POGENSKY HAVE BEEN MAKING A REAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE PEOPLE WE REQUESTED BUT WITH NO SUCCESS. AS A RESULT OF THIS MR. ROBERTS THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE OF GREAT HELP ALONE SO HE IS LEAVING ON JULY 8, 1976.

DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES MENTIONED, WE WOULD LIKE TO TERMINATE THE PROJECT AT THE PRESENT TIME AND WE WILL APPRECIATE YOUR NOTIFYING US OF THE COST OF THE PROJECT, FOR MR. NIBALI'S ONE MONTH STAY AND MR. ROBERTS' EIGHT MONTHS STAY, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION WHAT WE HAVE EXPLAINED IN THIS LETTER.

THANKING YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION. WITH KIND REGARDS, YOURS FAITHFULLY, IBRAHIM AL-ZAID, DIRECTOR GENERAL, UNQUOTE.

2. MR. PARROTT HAS ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED ABOVE LETTER VIA THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL. A COPY OF HIS REPLY WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY THROUGH THE APO. FOLLOWING THE RETURN OF MR. ROBERTS A FINAL ACCOUNTING OF THE COST OF SSA'S ASSISTANCE WILL BE MADE, AND A BILL WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY.

3. AL-ZAID LETTER MAKES NO MENTION OF LETTER TRANSMITTED REFTEL. WAS LETTER DELIVERED? KISSINGER

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